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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP INTELLIGENCE REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY Germany/Russian Zone

SUBJECT Agricultural Conditions in the Russian Zone

25X1C

ORIGIN

25X1X

EVALUATION OF SOURCE

DATE: 25X1A

INFO.

DIST.

31 January 1947

PAGES 2

SUBJECT

25X1X

1. It is reported that in Thuringia many farmers have had to deliver such a high quota of their production that there is insufficient food left for them to feed their families and their farm labor. Farmers in this category who have applied for food ration cards have been turned down by the Food Office, because there is no provision made for such cases.

2. [REDACTED] 25X1X the belief is widespread among farmers in Thuringia that the Russians are preparing for collectivization of all farms.

3. [REDACTED] 25X1X great poverty and misery among the farmers in Mecklenburg as a result of the high quotas set. Many have been imprisoned for not having fulfilled their quota. Because of these conditions, [REDACTED] 25X1X an anti-Soviet, and also an anti-SED, sentiment has developed.

4. [REDACTED] 25X1X reports that many farmers in Brandenburg and Mecklenburg have been able to deliver only five percent of their quota. Heavy penalties, jail sentences, and dispossession of farms are imposed with great frequency. In Angermünde county, seventeen SED mayors were arrested because their villages were delinquent.

5. [REDACTED] 25X1X the grain and potato crops in Brandenburg have fallen to somewhat less than half what might be expected in normal times. As a result, many farmers have been unable to meet their quotas and have been fined or imprisoned. Others met their quotas and have nothing left for themselves; they must now live on their bread cards, which entitle them only to bread and sugar, since they are classified as self-providers.

6. [REDACTED] 25X1X in the county of East Prignitz vegetable stores frequently rot at the collection points, because of Russian refusal to permit shipping unless reasons are submitted in writing. Quotas for meat have been set so high that many farmers

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have been forced to deliver very young pigs, although many of these pigs die because of the sudden change of temperature from the stall to the open air. All the grain collected in this county is shipped east to Lublin. Many farmers have had to deliver part of their seed grain because of the high quotas.

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7. [REDACTED] quotas for farm products in Brandenburg, Thuringia, and the Province of Saxony are set on the basis of total acreage owned by a farmer, and not on the basis of total arable acreage. This method is said to be used so that farmers who fail to fulfill their quotas can be dispossessed, if the Russians desire to dispossess them.
8. New settlers are said to be hardest hit by the high quotas, because of their inexperience and lack of proper equipment.
- 25X1X [REDACTED] approximately fifteen percent of the new settlers have abandoned their holdings, usually selling their livestock and farm implements and going to town to look for industrial work.
9. In Kreis Teltow, Russians, in conjunction with the German police, have conducted house searches of farmers who have delivered their quotas, on the suspicion that farmers who did not deliver their quotas had stored some of their production with farmers who had delivered their quotas. In many places the local Russian commander has verbally declared the whole community guilty for insufficient fulfillment of agricultural quotas and has made every citizen responsible under threat of fine and imprisonment. Such statements of collective guilt have as yet not been put into written form in Kreis Teltow.
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10. [REDACTED]  
Total collectivization is now being carried out under the direction of the SMA Food and Agriculture Division. All State and Land Administrations have been ordered to turn in reports on the fulfillment of quotas, listing by name all those farmers who are delinquent. These farmers are to be punished with fines and, in extreme cases, imprisonment up to one year. If whole districts are delinquent, all farmers in the area are to be interned and their land is to be farmed collectively. After their release, these farmers are to be allowed to return to the land which formerly belonged to them, as helpers, on condition that their whole family will work on the land. Source estimates that at least 4,000 farms may be expropriated in this manner before the next planting.
11. The mayor of Telz (Z92) called together the farmers of his village and told them that those who failed to meet their quota would be sent to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. In many cases, it is impossible for a farmer to fulfill his quota; in one case a farmer had to fulfill a milk quota for a cow which he no longer had. The farmers try to help each other as much as possible. [REDACTED] the farmers generally fear that collectivized farming will be introduced during 1947.

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